

Numbers 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

Analysis

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.' The Nazirite vow superseded even family obligations—normal mourning rituals involving corpse contact were forbidden. This parallels the high priest's restrictions (Leviticus 21:11) and shows that consecration to God takes precedence over natural ties. The phrase 'consecration of his God is upon his head' indicates the visible sign (long hair) representing invisible dedication. This demonstrates the principle that devotion to God transcends earthly relationships. Jesus taught similarly: 'He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me' (Matthew 10:37). The Nazirite's extreme separation illustrated that knowing God requires prioritizing Him above all, even legitimate good things. This voluntary devotion anticipated the total consecration Christ calls believers to demonstrate.

Historical Context

The prohibition against corpse contamination normally applied only to priests (Leviticus 21:1-3), who could make exception for immediate family. The Nazirite vow elevated ordinary Israelites to a priestly level of consecration during the vow period. Ancient Near Eastern mourning practices often involved close contact with the deceased, making this restriction significant. The reference to 'his head' containing God's consecration relates to the uncut hair symbolizing the vow. The

restriction prevented even accidental contamination that would break the vow and require purification (Numbers 6:9-12). This severe requirement showed the vow's seriousness—it wasn't to be undertaken lightly. Historical examples include Samson, whose strength derived from maintaining his consecration, and Samuel, whom Hannah dedicated before birth. The principle that devotion to God transcends natural affection challenges believers to examine their priorities.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the Nazirite vow's superseding of family obligations teach about the priority of devotion to God?
2. How do we balance honoring family relationships with Jesus' call to love Him above all earthly ties?

Interlinear Text

לְאָבִי יוֹ	וְלֵאִמִּי וְ	לְאָחִיו	וְלֵאִתּוֹ חַתּוֹ	לֹא
for his father	or for his mother	for his brother	or for his sister	H3808
H1	H517	H251	H269	
וְלֹא יִטְמָא	לָהֶם	בְּמֵתָם	כִּי יָמוּתוּ	
He shall not make himself unclean	H0	when they die	H3588	
H2930		H4194		
בְּגִלְתֵּי קִדְּשׁוֹ	אֱלֹהֵי יוֹ	עַל	רֹאשׁוֹ:	
because the consecration	of his God	H5921	is upon his head	
H5145	H430		H7218	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 9:6 (Parallel theme): And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

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